

# Washington State Solid Waste Plan Update Preview



W2RAC, July 15, 2014  
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# Today's Discussion

- 1) Process
- 2) Reminder of Comments
- 3) Introduction
- 4) Summary of Contents
- 5) Detailed Contents and Discussion
- 6) Next Steps



# Process for Developing Content

- Stakeholder comments, representative W2R staff, to generate new plan content
- Currently: getting staff and management review
- Public review of this first draft in August / Sept (4 weeks)

# Comments – Main Themes

- Finance
- Education / Communication /Information/ Technical Assistance
- Data and Measurement
- Toxics / Moderate Risk Waste (MRW)
- Urban and Rural issues – “one size does not fit all”
- Address current system
- Recycling needs work
- Products and Producer Responsibility
- Support Waste Hierarchy
- Big Picture Thinking



# More Comment Themes



- Food waste
- More organics technology
- Compost contamination, including bio-plastics
- Recycling and waste definitions
- Regulations
- C&D and sham recycling
- Waste-to-energy
- Infrastructure
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Service Equity / EJ
- Increase partnerships and coordination
- ECY lead: set some baselines, address statewide issues

# Plan Update Introduction

- Plan required by law(s)
- 2035 Vision: reduce/eliminate most wastes & toxics
- Sustainable Materials Management: What & Why
- Historical review of waste in WA
  - Lots of progress, more to go
- Key Strategies
- Progress on past plan



# More Introduction: What 2035 Vision Would Look Like

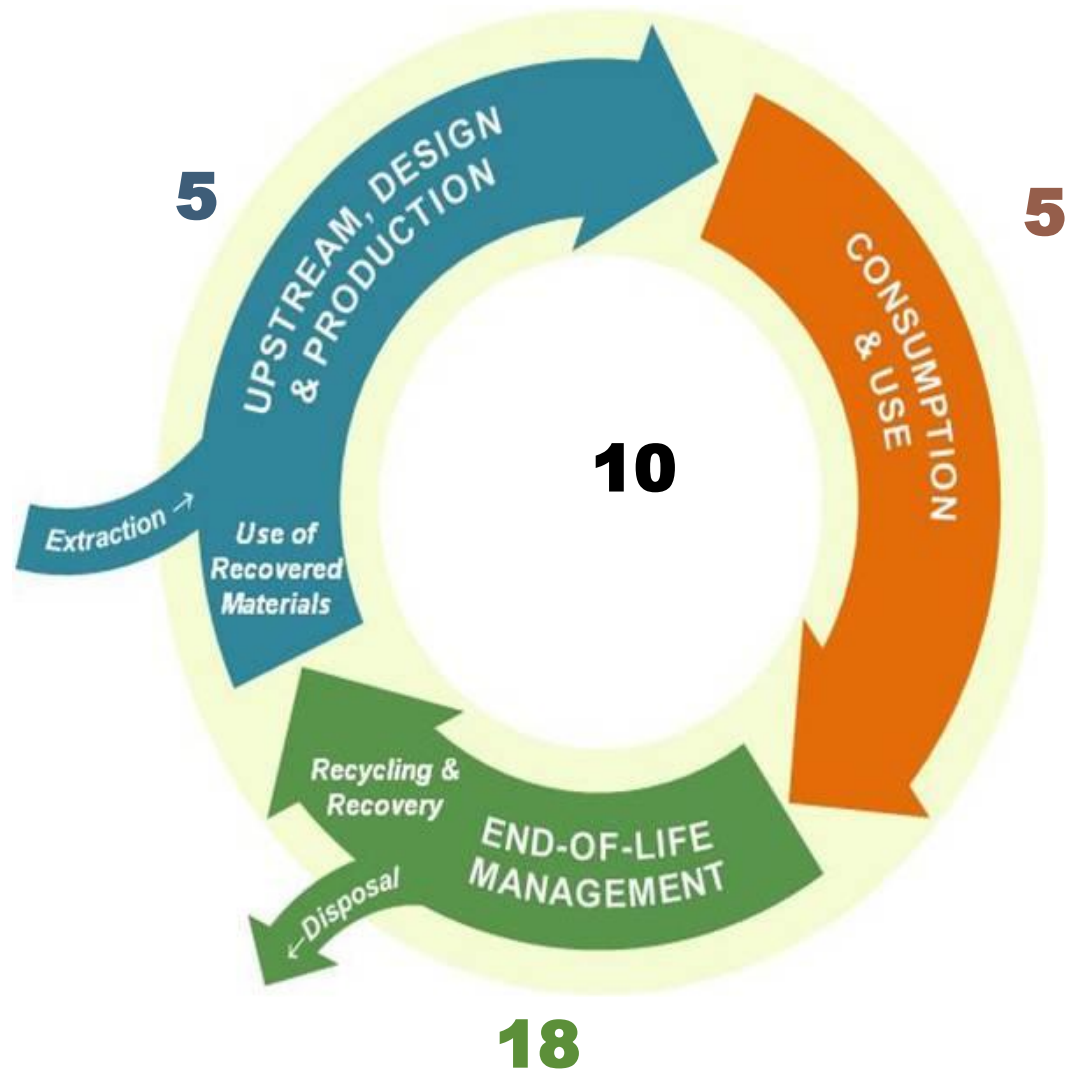
- Safe products, materials, services readily available; designed for human, economic, environmental health.
- Businesses thrive in WA; provide sustainable jobs.
- Closed-loop materials management commonplace.
- Data accurately reflect positive progress.
- A stable solid waste financing system in place; supports sustainable materials management.
- State regulations and infrastructure support reduction; elimination of waste and toxics.
- Greenhouse gas emissions decreased due in part to wiser management of material resources.

# Key Principles & Strategies

- Build on what's working, momentum, and complementary actions
- Design sustainable products and processes
- Create collaborative partnerships
- Remove barriers, increase incentives
- Evaluate programs and measure progress
- Strive for continuous improvement
- Government lead by example - use research, purchasing power, and pilot projects
- Minimize unintended consequences; consider environmental justice, economic viability and people's quality of life

# Sustainable Materials Management

- Will connect this cycle to the plan somehow...
- This allows us to focus on current system and focus upstream as well
- At this point, much, but not all, of our work is at end-of-life



# Overview of Draft Plan Update

- **W2R - 37 goals; 117 actions...**
  - And this is trying to stay broad!
  - HWTR - 26 goals; 79 actions
    - Some shared: Reducing Toxic Threats, EPP, some data
- **Many actions are dependent on getting new resources or shifting work – but still important to include**

# Focus Areas-W2R

STRUCTURE

T.B.D.

- **Waste**
  - reduction, recycling, disposal; some MRW
- **Organics**
  - Food, yard, ag. connection, biosolids
- **Toxics**
  - Reducing Toxic Threats, some MRW
- **Data**
- **Also Finance and New Goals & Measures**
- **Where are the building materials?**
  - Waste, organics, and toxics – oh my...!

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# Overview: Waste Reduction, Recycling, Disposal, some MRW

- Includes:
  - Reduction, reuse, packaging
  - Markets, collection, facilities, infrastructure (including C&D, MRW)
  - Litter, illegal disposal, sham, marine debris, WTE
  - Outreach

# Overview: Organics

- Includes:
  - Food waste, compost and agriculture, biosolids
  - Contamination, quality
  - Markets, facilities, diversification
  - Outreach

# Overview: Toxics

- Includes:
  - EPP, Product Stewardship
  - Reducing Toxics Threats work:
    - Children' Safe Products Act, Chemical Action Plans
    - Alternatives assessments, product testing, green chemistry, TSCA reform.
  - Outreach

*Toxics in building products can fit in here, too*

# Overview: Data & More

- Data Includes...
  - Flow of materials, facility performance,
  - Better analysis, use, and communication of data

## *Additional Areas:*

- **Finance** – similar to current plan
- **New Goals & Measures**

# DOWN TO DETAILS



# Details: Goals & Measures

- **GOAL:** New measures and goals adopted that encourage waste reduction, quality recycling and composting, and highest / best use.
  - **Action:** Working with stakeholders, establish continuous improvement goals for waste reduction, recycling (including composting), specific material recovery goals, that promote sustainable materials management.
  - **Action:** Encourage local governments to add goals in local plans, appropriate to their region.

# Details: Finance

- **GOAL:** Additional mechanisms to finance recycling and waste reduction are available. Financial issues are improved as tip fees better reflect full costs, long-term care and closure of waste facilities, and other externalities. Tip fees encourage waste reduction.
  - **Action:** Renew researching solid waste system finance options via universities and other utility experts in the face of reduced waste and associated tip fees. Explore current options as well as searching for new ideas. Prepare financing recommendations from current knowledge while working towards finding a long-term funding solution.

# Details: Outreach

- **GOAL:** Education efforts that promote **waste reduction and recycling and safe disposal** are in place and complement local and regional efforts.
- **GOAL:** Positive educational messages on the benefits of **composting and using compost** are disseminated statewide.
- **GOAL:** The public and others have more reliable information **regarding toxics in products and how to avoid them.**

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# Details: Waste Reduction / Reuse

- **GOAL: Waste Generation is Reduced**
  - **Action:** More business technical assistance
  - **Action:** EPA Climate & Materials Management Forum
  - **Action:** Reuse networks, by-product synergy
  - **Action:** Building /material reuse and salvage
  - **Action:** MRW facilities reuse
  - **Action:** Encourage more CPG, PPG projects on waste / toxics reduction

# Details: Products & Packaging

- **GOAL:** Increase focus on designing products and packaging with, recycled content and for durability, reuse or recycling. Optimize opportunities to address packaging issues with producers
  - **Two Actions:** work more with mfrs/ producers; Research...

# Details: Recycling

- **GOAL: Quality recycling increased; system loss reduced; continuous improvement in recycling rate.**
  - **Action:** Recycling facilities, systems-loss; quality of materials
  - **Action:** Base or tiered list of recyclables for curbside; address plastics and glass
  - **Action:** Regulatory definitions of recycling (diversion); recyclable materials, waste, product
  - **Action:** Increase recycling of suitable MRW
- **GOAL: Recycling markets are strengthened.**
  - **Actions:** Study recycling development councils in NE, SE - explore establishing one in NW. Also EPP, infrastructure map...

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# Details: Collection & Services

## GOAL:

- The state's waste, recycling and moderate risk waste **collection system is better used and more efficient**, and supported by **increased infrastructure**. More collection and recycling locations and options exist statewide.
- **More equitable service levels** have been established for underserved populations and areas. This includes **multifamily, minority populations, rural areas, public spaces, and commercial entities**.

# More Details: Collection & Services

- **Action:** Evaluate “hub and spoke” recycling model for rural areas
- **Action:** Examine mandatory solid waste collection (with opt-out option)
- **Action:** Encourage TS & MRW facilities to be “one-stop shops” for disposal, reuse, recycling, and take-back programs, as appropriate
- **Action:** Support EPR for toxic and hard-to-handle materials
- **Action:** Research models for curbside collection of some common MRW
- **Action:** Through grants, TA, other means, help local governments provide better / increased service for their residents
- **Action:** Study, promote recycling service in areas with limited options; increased recycling programs for multi-family and commercial
- **Action:** Provide more materials in Spanish and other languages

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# Details: Sham Recycling, Litter & More

- **GOAL: Sham recycling; illicit disposal reduced**
  - **Action:** Work with local governments, solid waste collection companies, other transporters and WUTC; communication about recycling laws, requirements, enforcement options. Look at definitions, data tracking.
  - **Action:** Discourage private property disposal....
- **GOAL: Litter prevention campaign is back in operation; another litter survey performed**
- **GOAL: Focus on Marine Debris has increased**

# Details: Infrastructure

- **GOAL: Exempt Facilities** better defined, operated; tracked to assure compliance with exemption criteria  
*(Includes composters, MRFs, more)*
- **GOAL:** Landfills and other solid waste and MRW facilities are **permitted properly and in compliance**
- **GOAL:** Landfills with contamination in process of / done with **acceptable clean-up. Closed landfills reaching / have reached stability** ;no longer need SW permit
- **GOAL:** Staff (local and state) able to assess if **Closed and Abandoned Landfills** pose serious health threats; address those threats as they arise

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# Details: WTE Infrastructure

- **GOAL: Increase Knowledge of Conversion Technologies.**
  - **Action:** Study life cycle analysis for various conversion technologies, working with universities and other states.
  - **Action:** Formulate a clear statement of where conversion technologies fit in the waste management hierarchy, working with stakeholders and using studies.

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# Details: Organics Infrastructure, Products, Markets

- **GOAL: More diversified organics processing infrastructure exists in the state.**
  - Actions about local, scalable, AD, bio-energy, etc.
- **GOAL: Compost facilities produce clean end products.**
  - Actions about working with stakeholders, research, testing
- **GOAL: Stronger beneficial end use markets in place.**
  - Actions to support diverse markets for diverse materials;
  - Measure how much material makes it to market

# Details: Connecting Organics Materials to Agriculture & Water

- **GOAL:** Increase soil carbon sequestration using recycled organic materials based on research recommendations
- **GOAL:** Fewer petroleum based pesticides and herbicides needed due to increased use of compost and other soil amendments
- **GOAL:** Less water is used in food growing systems due to an increased use of compost and other soil amendments
- **GOAL:** The connections between compost; other organic products and water quality are better understood and implemented

# Details: Product Stewardship

- **GOAL:** There are more product stewardship programs for toxic and hard-to-handle products.
  - **Action:** Strategically track, engage and support EPR efforts and other producer help for toxic and hard-to-handle products as a means to increase collection, education and highest and best use of materials.
  - **Action:** Explore ways to use EPR or product stewardship programs to encourage less toxic, less wasteful product design.

# Details: EPP

## Environmentally Preferred Purchasing

- **GOAL: EPP in residential and institutional sectors has increased**

- **Action:** Governmental agency EPP – via DES, executive order, or law. Public EPP, too.
- **Action:** Measurement and tracking system for green purchases, starting with Ecology.
- **Action:** 3rd party labels, certifications and disclosures

# Details: Reducing Toxic Threats (RTT)

- **GOAL:** Manufacturers significantly **reduce PBTs and other toxics in consumer products**
- **GOAL:** Increase **knowledge about chemicals of concern**, toxics in products and their impact on human health and environment
- **GOAL:** **Non-point sources of toxic pollution have been reduced**, improving and protecting water and air quality and preventing additional contaminated sites

# Details: Data

- **GOAL:** Measure **flow of materials** from manufacture and purchase to discard
  - **Actions on:** life cycle of key products, mapping, waste sort, residuals & contamination
- **GOAL: Effectiveness of** recycling, composting, disposal and other SW handling **facilities** assessed; improved
  - **Actions on:** Assess of facility TA; facility audits on reporting; problematic materials in LFs

# Details: More Data

- **GOAL:** Measures for **economic and environmental impacts of waste** reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, etc.
  - **Actions include:**
    - Analyze current cost data; survey recyclers
    - Research jobs, GHG, toxics, groundwater
    - Track the impacts of waste, consumption...  
(*life-cycle analysis, circular economy metrics etc.*)

# Details: One More on Data

- **GOAL:** Data analyzed, accessible, used to guide program activities policy decisions. Efficiency, quality control developed
- **Actions include:**
  - Streamline, update collection, reporting
  - More analysis and use to drive decisions
  - More and clearer communication of data

# Next Steps

- **Now:** Getting staff & management comments. **Next:** Editing
- **Also:** Deciding on structure; Designing public comment set-up
- **Out for public comment:**  
**Aug / Sept ~ 4 weeks**

# Thank You!



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